

Only natural to 'go local'

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

What better time to support local companies than during the travails of Covid lockdown?

Dandenong South baby-care company Bubba Organics is one of the ambassadors of the recent Australian Made Week ending 30 May.

Bubba Organics founder Kerri Chadwick earned the familiar green-and-gold logo by sourcing Australian packaging and ingredients whenever she can.

The high quality, non-toxic and allergy-free products are made in Melbourne, with the recyclable bottles, tubes, labels and care tags made in Victoria and Australia.

Ms Chadwick says it's not easy to find the remaining Australian tube and bottle makers, "great businesses" that defied the off-shore trend.

Covid may have been their silver lining, with "big brands" now turning to local manufacturers, she says.

According to Roy Morgan Research, if each household spent an extra \$10 a week on Australian Made products, an extra \$5 billion and 11,000 jobs would be created in the Australian economy.

The idea for Bubba Organics sprung while Ms Chadwick and her business partner ran a children's boutique store.

It was hard to find "pure and natural" skin products for babies, despite a rash of allergies and eczema among young ones.

Some of the store's 'organic' stock was actually full of synthetics or water. So Ms Chadwick took action to create her own.

"So many children and babies have eczema because of what's in their skin and in their system.

"Parents are looking for things that are as gentle as they can be."

The ethical business sells natural skin-care products that are free from petrochemicals, sulfates, mineral oils and synthetic colours and fragrances, and not tested on animals.

The products use an aloe vera base, rather than cheap fillers like water that is prone to harbouring bacteria, she says.



Kerri Chadwick with the 'Australian Made' Bubba Organics range. 238402

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

Australian Made chief executive Ben Lazzaro said the awareness week was a "great opportunity to celebrate all the great things we make and grow".

"When you buy Australian Made, not only are you getting products made to some of the highest standards in the world, you create jobs, now and into the future, and support

thousands of Australians throughout the supply chain.

"One job in manufacturing produces three to four jobs in other parts of the economy."